

MONTEBELLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BELL GARDENS ELEMENTARY
“Building Learners for the 21st Century!”
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To: California History Social Science Framework Draft Committee
From: Leslie Hiatt, M.S., Teacher, Bell Gardens Elementary School, Montebello
Unified School District
Re: **Line 1176** California History Social Science Framework Draft

My fourth-grade students and I learned about the unconstitutional deportations of the 1930s through a unit of study on immigration in California. We were shocked that information about something so important and widespread as the Mexican Repatriation Campaign was not in our history textbooks. My students, all Latinos, took an intense interest in the topic because seeing themselves in history made history more meaningful. They won a contest sponsored by Assembly Member Cristina Garcia, with the goal of putting this part of history in our text books in California. It became AB 146. I am proud to say that my students want the Mexican Repatriation Campaign in their textbooks so that all California students can have easy access to information and learn about this injustice. I am also proud to say that the California Teachers' Association wants to see this part of history in our history textbooks as well, and is supporting AB 146.

Below is testimony from my students at the California State Assembly Education Committee on March 25, 2015 supporting inclusion of these unlawful expulsions of the 1930s.

Makayla Rocha:

We want to have a voice and impact for what the future students learn about of the history in our country.

Janet Martinez:

Isn't the Mexican Repatriation as important as the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Japanese Relocation Camps, the Bracero Program, and the Indian Removal Act? We know it is just as important.

Justin Ortiz:

The great-great grandsons and granddaughters want to read about the illegal deportations in our history textbooks.